(d) if so, by when such an Agency would be formed and nature of its composition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Fast food centres setup in the country both by the indigenous entrepreneurs and the MNC are licenced by the State Governments.

There is no proposal to create a special Quality Assurance Agency. Monitoring and inspection concerning quality and hygiene of fast food centres is carried out by the State Governments as per PFA Rules, 1955.

Imported food items under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act

2579. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to bring imported food items within the ambit of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed to implement the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) Imported food items are required to meet the standards prescribed in the Rules made under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

'Wrist Watch Incision device for heart patients

2580. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new innovation in the field of by pass surgery has been evolved wherein 'Wrist Watch Incision' is carried on a heart patient;

(b) whether it is a blood saving device and is very convenient for the patients undergoing by pass surgery;

(c) whether this new device has been introduced on large scale in the hospitals in the country; and

(d) if not, by when it will be done on large scale?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A new device has been evolved wherein small incisions are made to harvest the grafts used for coronary artery bypass grafting. It is a blood saving and less painful procedure and more convenient to the patients.

(c) and (d) At present the above procedure is being used in a few hospitals in Delhi and Mumbai.

AIDS among youths

† 2581. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that danger of AIDS among youths in the country, particularly students, is rising;

(b) if so, whether Government have any scheme to start AIDS Education Programme in all the public schools and semi-Government schools in the States to make them aware of the increasing dangers of AIDS;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has already started the School AIDS Education Programme. This Programme addresses students of classes IX & XI and focuses on raising awareness levels, helping young people resist peer pressure and developing a safe and responsible life-style.The programme reinforces family values and respect for the opposite sex. The activities include training of teachers and peer educators among students , role play, debate and discussions, question box and access to referral services, if necessary.

It is aimed to cover all the schools in the country by the end of 2004

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.